

REMARKS

This Reply to Office Action is responsive to the Office Action mailed on July 28, 2003. Claims 1-9 and 18-22 are pending in the present application. Applicants have canceled claims 1-9, amended claims 18-20, canceled claims 21-22, and added claims 23-27. Accordingly, claims 18-20 and 23-27 are now at issue.

Regarding the Examiner's specification objections, Applicants have amended the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 24 to reference a related application. Moreover, Applicants have amended the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 7 to replace the reference B₁ with the reference B. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner's specification objections have been overcome.

Regarding the Examiner's drawing objections, Applicants submit a proposed drawing change to FIG. 15, which replaces the reference B₁ with the reference B. This proposed drawing change is shown in the attached Annotated Sheet Showing Changes and incorporated into the attached Replacement Sheet. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner's drawing objections have been overcome.

Regarding the Examiner's claim objections, claims 18-20 have been amended to replace the term "neck area" with the term "neck section", as suggested by the Examiner. Moreover, Applicants have amended claims 18-20 to replace the reference B₁ with the reference B. These amendments are not considered to broaden or narrow the scope of the claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner's claim objections have been overcome.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the Examiner's claim objections. As noted above, claims 18-20 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's claim objections. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 18-20 are allowable. Moreover, canceled dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 have been rewritten as

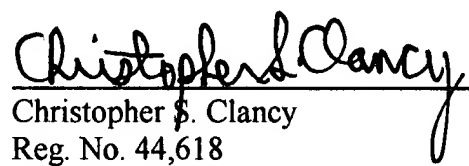
dependent claims 23-27, all depending from allowable claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 23-27 are allowable based on their dependency from allowable claim 18.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claims 18-20 and 23-27 are allowable and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

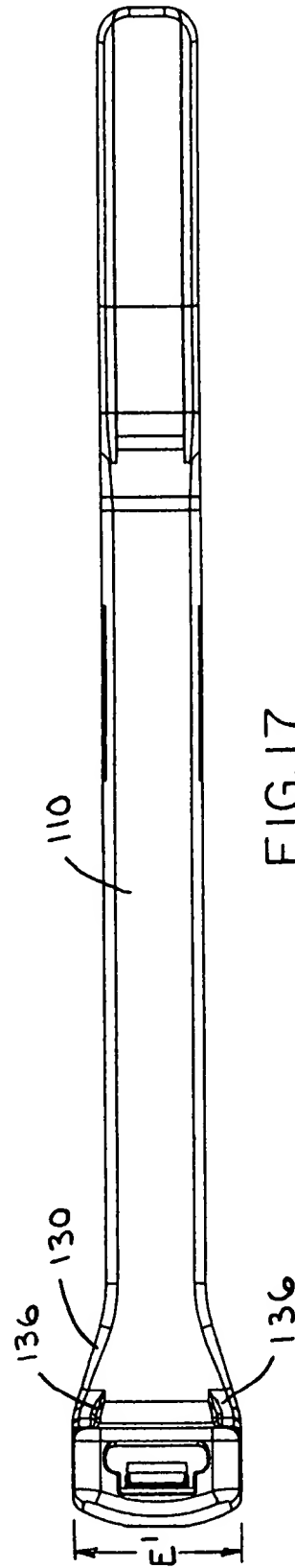
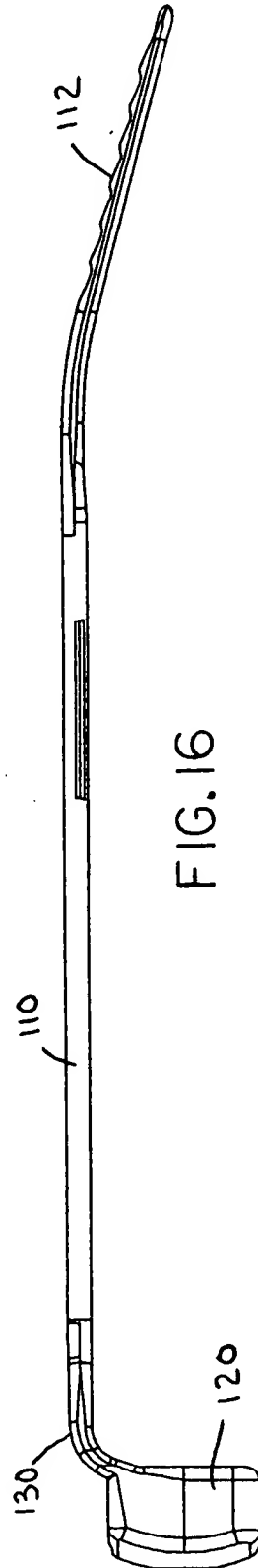
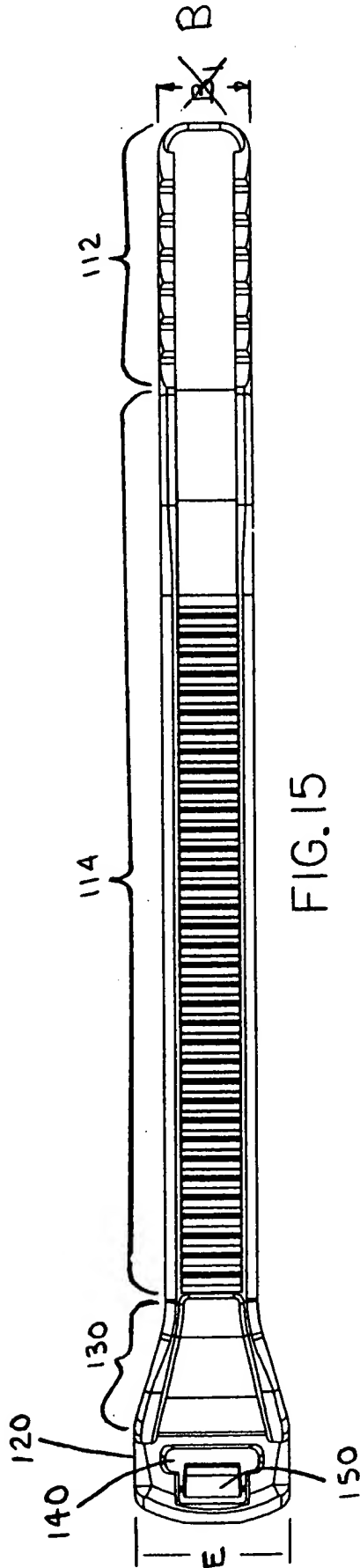
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Respectfully submitted,

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